

News Release



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Two noteworthy historic landmarks given protected status

HOUSTON, June 24, 2009 – Houston City Council recently designated two well known buildings in as Protected Landmarks. The designation protects the buildings from demolition or substantial exterior alteration. The newly designated properties are as follows:

First Evangelical Church and Education building, 1311 Holman

The First Evangelical Lutheran Church, founded in 1851 as the First German Evangelical Lutheran Church, is one of the oldest congregations in Houston. Previously housed in two other sanctuaries, the congregation purchased the land for the current buildings in 1926. They retained architect Joseph W. Northrop, Jr., who had moved to Houston to oversee construction of the Rice Institute (now Rice University), to design the structures extant today. General contractor James West, along with subcontractors J. C. Nolan and the Star Electric and Engineering Company, constructed the campus. Northrop's North Italian Romanesque styling features terra cotta roof tiles on the sanctuary, education building, and parsonage, as well as a campanile (bell tower). The buildings were constructed of interlocking concrete tiles covered with buff-face brick and white sandstone trim. The campanile's bell was forged in 1880 and has rung at each of the congregation's places of worship. The tower connects the sanctuary to the seven-bay arched portals of the education building. The sanctuary's details include pulpit and altar made by master woodcarvers from Oberammergau, Germany.



The Henry Brashear Building, 910 Prairie

The Henry Brashear Building built in 1922, is contained within the Main Street Market Square Historic District. The historic district constitutes Houston's largest, most nearly intact accumulation of physical resources representing the city's civic and commercial past. The Brashear Building was designed by Eugene T. Heiner, one of Houston's leading architects of the late nineteenth century. Other important Houston buildings designed by Heiner include: the Houston Cotton Exchange Building, the W. L. Foley Dry Goods Building, and the Sweeney and Coombs Building, all of which are also located within the Main Street Market Square Historic District. The Henry Brashear Building was built for Henry Brashear, judge of the District Criminal Court and vice-president of the Texas National Bank. The Henry Brashear building is one of Houston's best examples of a Victorian commercial building and one of few surviving examples of Eugene Heiner.



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More information is online at the Planning Department web site at www.houstonplanning.com under Historic Preservation.